

Amendments to the claims:

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

1. (previously presented) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having an inner tapered surface and outer tapered surface each having a securing means on both said inner and said outer tapered surfaces, either of said securing means configured to allow mounting onto a valve fitting;

a base extending across said tapered cylinder, said base positioned to inhibit particles from entering the first fitting;

a first strap attached to one side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base;

a second strap attached to another side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve; and

a locking mechanism configured to fasten said locking mechanism to join said first strap to said second strap such that said locking mechanism indicates detachment when unlocked after locking, thereby providing a tamper notification.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

3. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising at least one indentation at which said first and second straps are bendable.

4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The device of claim 1 further comprising channels at which said first and second straps are bendable.

6. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue included within said first strap.

7. (original) The device of claim 6 wherein said means for fastening includes a tongue receiver included within said second strap.

8. (original) The device of claim 7 wherein said tongue includes a saw edge fastenable to said tongue receiver.

9. (original) The device of claim 8 wherein said tongue receiver includes a protrusion preventing said saw edge tongue from being retracted after insertion.

10-12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

14-15. (cancelled)

16. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein said securing means are tangs.

17. (currently amended) A tamper notification and protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a first fitting to be protected, a second fitting connectable to a tank, and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having an inner and outer surface configured to secure the cylinder onto a valve fitting;

a base mounted within said tapered cylinder, said base positioned to inhibit particles from entering the first fitting; and

a first strap and a second strap configured to be bendable about said valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base, said ~~means for blocking tapered cylinder~~ being disposed between said first strap and ~~[[a]]~~ said second strap, and said first strap configured to be fastenable to said second strap.

18-20. (cancelled)

21. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a tab disposed on said first strap, said tab including perforations.

22-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 17 wherein said tapered cylinder having a base includes a first and a second open end each configured to allow mounting to a valve fitting, wherein at least one of said open ends includes tangs on both said inner surface and said outer surface.

28. (original) The device of claim 17 wherein said first strap is bendable at three locations and said second strap is bendable at one location, said straps forming a square-like shape when fastened to one another.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) A protection device for use with a valve, said valve including a valve fitting connectable to a distribution mechanism and a burst disk, said device comprising:

a tapered cylinder having a first end and a second end, the second end including an inner tapered surface having a securing means, and an outer tapered surface having a securing means, said tapered cylinder attachable to valve fittings of various sizes by using one of either said securing means of said inner surface or said securing means of said outer surface; a base configured to inhibit particles from entering the valve fitting;

a first strap attached to one side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve, said first strap having a ring through which said burst disk is insertable, said ring further having an extended base;

a second strap attached to another side of the tapered cylinder and bendable about the valve; and

a fastener allowing joining of said first strap to said second strap, wherein said fastener, once fastened, cannot be unfastened without damaging said protection device such that tampering is evident.

31-32. (cancelled)